

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An electronic keyboard instrument comprising:
  - a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;
  - a power source for operating the controller;
  - a first keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;
  - a second keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;
  - an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;
  - a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals; and
  - a wearable support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.
2. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include an adjustable knob.
3. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include an adjustable slider.
4. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a button.
5. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a

wheel.

6. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a switch.

7. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a display.

8. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a touch screen.

9. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a pressure or area sensitive touchpad.

10. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a theremin-like device.

11. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a ribbon controller.

12. The instrument set forth in claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices include a joystick.

13. An electronic keyboard instrument which comprises:

a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

a power source for operating the controller;

a first keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using at least one hand of a first user;

a second keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be

generated and/or activated using at least one hand of a second user;

an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals; and

a support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards in a generally horizontal position for operation of the instrument by at least the first and second users.

14. An electronic keyboard instrument defined by upper and lower surfaces arranged generally parallel to one another with corresponding opposing curvilinear edges, and side surfaces separating the upper and lower surfaces, the side surfaces having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges, the instrument comprising:

a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

a power source for operating the controller;

a first keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

a second keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals, at least one of the devices being mounted to one of the side surfaces

for ready operability by the user; and

a wearable support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

15. An electronic keyboard instrument defined by upper and lower surfaces arranged generally parallel to one another with corresponding opposing curvilinear edges, and side surfaces separating the upper and lower surfaces, the side surfaces having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges, the instrument comprising:

a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

a power source for operating the controller;

a first keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

a second keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals, the devices being mounted to at least one of the upper and side surfaces of the instrument for ready operability by the user; and

a wearable support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

16. An electronic keyboard instrument defined by upper and lower surfaces arranged

generally parallel to one another with corresponding opposing curvilinear edges, and side surfaces separating the upper and lower surfaces, the side surfaces having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges, the instrument comprising:

- a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

- a power source for operating the controller;

- a first keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

- a second keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

- an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

- a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals, at least one of the devices being located on the lower surfaces of the instrument for ready operability by the user; and

- a wearable support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

17. An electronic keyboard instrument having a generally S-like shape and defined by upper and lower surfaces arranged generally parallel to one another with corresponding opposing curvilinear edges, and side surfaces separating the upper and lower surfaces, the side surfaces having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges, the instrument comprising:

- a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible,

amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

a power source for operating the controller;

a first arcuate keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first position along a first portion of the S-like shape such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

a second arcuate keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with the first and oriented in a fashion generally opposite to that of the first and on a second portion of the S-like shape such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals, at least one of the devices being located on one of the side surfaces for ready operability by the user; and

a wearable support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

18. An electronic keyboard instrument defined by upper and lower surfaces arranged generally parallel to one another with corresponding opposing curvilinear edges, and side surfaces separating the upper and lower surfaces, the side surfaces having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges, the instrument comprising:

a controller for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

a power source for operating the controller;

a first arcuate keyboard having a first selected length and oriented in a first position such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

a second arcuate keyboard having a second selected length, the second keyboard being generally coextensive with the first and oriented in a fashion generally opposite to that of the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

each of the first and second arcuate keyboards being characterized by keys of continuously varying length, the keys being generally longer at the respective keyboard ends and shorter at the respective keyboard center so as to define an arcuate shape and, thereby, enhance user operation;

an interface for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

a plurality of peripheral devices associated with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals, at least one of the devices being located on one of the side surfaces for ready operability by the user; and

a wearable support mounted to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

19. A method of playing an electronic keyboard instrument, which comprises the steps of:

i. suspending the instrument from a user's body in a generally vertical orientation for ready operation;

ii. engaging a first keyboard of the instrument using a first hand of the user, the first keyboard having a first selected length and being oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound

module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated thereby;

iii. engaging a second keyboard of the instrument using a second hand of the user, the second keyboard having a second selected length and being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated thereby; and

iv. manipulating at least one of a plurality of peripheral devices associated with a controller of the instrument, the controller enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics, for interactive control and manipulation of the signals to achieve a desired effect.

20. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include an adjustable knob.

21. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include an adjustable slider.

22. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a button.

23. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a wheel.

24. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a switch.

25. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a display.

26. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a touch screen.

27. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a pressure or area sensitive touchpad.

28. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a theremin-like device.

29. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a ribbon



controller.

30. The method set forth in claim 19 wherein the peripheral devices include a joystick.

31. A method of playing an electronic keyboard instrument, which comprises the steps of:

i. suspending the instrument from a user's body in a generally horizontal orientation for ready operation;

ii. engaging a first keyboard of the instrument using a first hand of the user, the first keyboard having a first selected length and being oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated thereby;

iii. engaging a second keyboard of the instrument using a second hand of the user, the second keyboard having a second selected length and being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated thereby; and

iv. manipulating at least one of a plurality of peripheral devices associated with a controller of the instrument, the controller enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics, for interactive control and manipulation of the signals to achieve a desired effect.

32. A method of playing an electronic keyboard instrument, the instrument being defined by upper and lower surfaces arranged generally parallel to one another with corresponding opposing curvilinear edges, and side surfaces separating the upper and lower surfaces, the side surfaces having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges, the method comprising the steps of:

i. locating the instrument in a generally horizontal position in front of a first user along one side surface of the instrument, and in front of a second user along a second side surface of the instrument for ready operation by the first and second users;

ii. engaging a first keyboard of the instrument using at least one hand of a first user, the first keyboard having a first selected length and being oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated thereby;

iii. engaging a second keyboard of the instrument using at least one hand of a second user, the second keyboard having a second selected length and being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated thereby; and

iv. manipulating at least one of a plurality of peripheral devices associated with a controller of the instrument, the controller enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics, for interactive control and manipulation of the signals to achieve a desired effect.

33. A floating key assembly for a keyboard instrument, the assembly comprising:  
a key supported by and suspended over a first resilient member in proximity to one end of the key and a second resilient member adjacent to the other and opposite end of the key;  
a guide for directing movement of the key toward and away from at least one of the resilient members while restricting movement of the key and resilient members in the lateral and longitudinal directions; and

at least one sensor associated with each end of the key for detecting physical properties of the key.

34. A floating key assembly for a keyboard instrument, the assembly comprising:

a key supported by and suspended over a first resilient member in proximity to one end of the key and a second resilient member adjacent to the other and opposite end of the key;

a guide for directing movement of the key toward and away from at least one of the resilient members while restricting movement of the key and resilient members in the lateral and longitudinal directions; and

at least one sensor associated with each end of the key for detecting physical properties of the key,

whereupon engagement of the one end of the key with a user's finger, the one end is directed toward the one sensor associated therewith and against a selected, opposing biasing force exerted by the first resilient member, whereas the other key end is directed away from the one sensor associated therewith and with a selected, opposing biasing force exerted by the second resilient member, so as to define a floating pivot point of the key assembly.

35. A floating key assembly for a keyboard instrument, the assembly comprising:

a key supported by and suspended over a first resilient member in proximity to one end of the key and a second resilient member adjacent to the other and opposite end of the key;

a guide for directing movement of the key toward and away from at least one of the resilient members while restricting movement of the key and resilient members in the lateral and longitudinal directions; and

at least one sensor associated with each end of the key for detecting physical properties of the key,

whereupon engagement of the one end of the key with a user's finger, the one end is directed toward the one sensor associated therewith and against a selected, opposing biasing force exerted by the first resilient member, and the other key end is directed toward the one sensor associated therewith and against a selected, opposing biasing force exerted by the second resilient member.

36. A method of assembling an electronic keyboard instrument, which comprises the steps of:

i. providing a structural member for housing one or more selected devices for generating audible signals;

ii. mounting a controller to the member for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

- iii. joining a power source to the instrument for operating the controller;
- iv. mounting a first keyboard to the member, the first keyboard having a first selected length and being oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;
- v. mounting a second keyboard to the member, the second keyboard having a second selected length and being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;
- vi. providing an interface, operatively associated with the member, for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;
- vii. associating a plurality of peripheral devices with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals; and
- viii. mounting a wearable support to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

37. The method set forth in claim 36, further comprising the step of mounting a floating key assembly to the instrument, the assembly comprising a key supported by and suspended over a first resilient member in proximity to one end of the key and a second resilient member adjacent to the other and opposite end of the key, a guide for directing movement of the key toward and away from at least one of the resilient members while restricting movement of the key and resilient members in the lateral and longitudinal directions; and at least one sensor associated with each end of the key for detecting physical properties of the key.

38. The method set forth in claim 36, further comprising the step of mounting a floating key assembly to the instrument, the assembly comprising a key supported by and

suspended over a first resilient member in proximity to one end of the key and a second resilient member adjacent to the other and opposite end of the key; a guide for directing movement of the key toward and away from at least one of the resilient members while restricting movement of the key and resilient members in the lateral and longitudinal directions; and at least one sensor associated with each end of the key for detecting physical properties of the key, whereupon engagement of the one end of the key with a user's finger, the one end is directed toward the one sensor associated therewith and against a selected, opposing biasing force exerted by the first resilient member, whereas the other key end is directed away from the one sensor associated therewith and with a selected, opposing biasing force exerted by the second resilient member, so as to define a floating pivot point of the key assembly.

39. The method set forth in claim 36, further comprising the step of mounting a floating key assembly to the instrument, the assembly comprising a key supported by and suspended over a first resilient member in proximity to one end of the key and a second resilient member adjacent to the other and opposite end of the key; a guide for directing movement of the key toward and away from at least one of the resilient members while restricting movement of the key and resilient members in the lateral and longitudinal directions; and at least one sensor associated with each end of the key for detecting physical properties of the key, whereupon engagement of the one end of the key with a user's finger, the one end is directed toward the one sensor associated therewith and against a selected, opposing biasing force exerted by the first resilient member, and the other key end is directed toward the one sensor associated therewith and against a selected, opposing biasing force exerted by the second resilient member.

40. A method of assembling an electronic keyboard instrument, which comprises the steps of:

- i. providing a structural member for housing one or more selected devices for generating audible signals;
- ii. mounting a controller to the member for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;
- iii. joining a power source to the instrument for operating the controller;
- iv. mounting a first keyboard to the member, the first keyboard having a first selected length and being oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be

enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

v. mounting a second keyboard to the member, the second keyboard having a second selected length and being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

vi. providing an interface, operatively associated with the member, for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

vii. associating a plurality of peripheral devices with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals; and

viii. mounting a support to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards in a generally horizontal position for operation of the instrument by at least the first and second users.

41. A method of assembling an electronic keyboard instrument, which comprises the steps of:

i. forming upper and lower surface members having opposing curvilinear edges;

ii. forming side surface members for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges;

iii. arranging the upper and lower surface members such that they are generally parallel to one another and the opposing curvilinear edges correspond with one another;

iv. joining the side surface members to the upper and lower surface members so as to form a housing of the instrument;

v. mounting a controller to the housing for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;

vi. joining a power source to the instrument for operating the controller;

vii. mounting a first keyboard to the member, the first keyboard having a first selected

length and being oriented in a first direction such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;

viii. mounting a second keyboard to the member, the second keyboard having a second selected length and being generally coextensive with and oriented generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;

ix. providing an interface, operatively associated with the housing, for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

x. associating a plurality of peripheral devices with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals, at least one of the devices being mounted to one of the side surfaces for ready operability by the user; and

xi. mounting a wearable support to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

42. The method set forth in claim 41, wherein at least one of the peripheral devices is mounted to one of the side surfaces for ready operability by the user.

43. The method set forth in claim 41, wherein one or more of the peripheral devices are mounted to at least one of the upper and side surfaces of the instrument for ready operability by the user.

44. The method set forth in claim 41, wherein at least one of the peripheral devices is located on the lower surfaces of the instrument for ready operability by the user.

45. A method of assembling an electronic keyboard instrument having a generally S-like shape, which comprises the steps of:

i. forming upper and lower surface members having opposing curvilinear edges;

- ii. forming side surface members having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges;
- iii. arranging the upper and lower surface members such that they are generally parallel to one another and the opposing curvilinear edges correspond to one another;
- iv. joining the side surface members to the upper and lower surface members so as to form a housing of the instrument;
- v. mounting a controller to the housing for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;
- vi. joining a power source to the instrument for operating the controller;
- vii. mounting a first arcuate keyboard to the housing, the first keyboard having a first selected length and being oriented in a first position along a first portion of the S-like shape such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;
- viii. mounting a second arcuate keyboard to the housing, the second keyboard having a second selected length, being generally coextensive with and oriented in a fashion generally opposite to the first, and on a second portion of the S-like shape such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user;
- ix. providing an interface, operatively associated with the housing, for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;
- x. associating a plurality of peripheral devices with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals, at least one of the devices being located on one of the side surfaces for ready operability by the user; and
- xi. mounting a wearable support to the instrument for suspending the first and second



keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.

46. A method of assembling an electronic keyboard instrument having a generally S-like shape, which comprises the steps of:

- i. forming upper and lower surface members having opposing curvilinear edges;
- ii. forming side surface members having edges for sealing engagement with the curvilinear edges;
- iii. arranging the upper and lower surface members such that they are generally parallel to one another and the opposing curvilinear edges correspond to one another;
- iv. joining the side surface members to the upper and lower surface members so as to form a housing of the instrument;
- v. mounting a controller to the housing for enabling activation of electronic signals having audible, visible, amplifiable, recordable and/or like characteristics;
- vi. joining a power source to the instrument for operating the controller;
- vii. mounting a first arcuate keyboard to the housing, the first keyboard having a first selected length and being oriented in a first position such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a first hand of a user;
- viii. mounting a second arcuate keyboard to the housing, the second keyboard having a second selected length and being generally coextensive with and oriented in a fashion generally opposite to the first such that (i) audible notes of music from at least one internal sound module and/or at least one external sound module, (ii) recordable data to be enhanced or modified by an external sequencer or program controlled apparatus, (iii) photoelectric signals, and (iv) processes or mechanisms, triggered or controlled by external signals or data, for controlling machines, video playback or lighting, and/or the like may be generated and/or activated using a second hand of the user, each of the first and second arcuate keyboards being characterized by keys of continuously varying length, the keys being generally longer at the respective keyboard ends and shorter at the respective keyboard center so as to define an arcuate shape and, thereby, enhance

user operation;

ix. providing an interface, operatively associated with the housing, for connecting the controller to at least one external device having sound module, and/or sequencing and signal enhancement functions;

x. associating a plurality of peripheral devices with the controller for interactive control and manipulation of the signals, at least one of the devices being located on one of the side surfaces for ready operability by the user; and

xi. mounting a wearable support to the instrument for suspending the first and second keyboards from the user's body during instrument operation.